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## Some Fern Reprints Recently Received

R. C. BENEDICT.

*Maxon, W. R.* A new genus of davallioid ferns. Jour. Washington Acad. Sci., **3**: 143, 144. 4 Mr. 1913.

Maxon describes in this paper, *Sphenomeris*, as a new genus with *Odontosoria clavata* (L.) J. Smith, as its type species. The name *Sphenomeris* is applied to the species formerly in *Odontosoria*, which have leaves with determinate growth. The name *Odontosoria* is applied to the species having climbing leaves of indeterminate growth, like those of *Lygodium*.

*Maxon, W. R.* Studies of tropical American ferns, No. 4. Contrib. U. S. Nat. Herb. **17**: 133-179. i-x. fig. 1-7. pl. 1-10. June 1913.

Under the title "Studies in tropical American ferns," Maxon has already published three papers, comprising two hundred and twelve pages and including about fifty plates besides text figures. These, with the present paper make up a considerable total in this series of valuable data on American ferns which have been developed in connection with the writer's wide studies on the fern phylum.

"The present paper, like the preceding ones of the series, includes brief discussions of several genera or smaller groups of species which have been the subject of great confusion, but which it is now possible to treat with some degree of assurance." The groups treated in the present paper, with the sub-titles, are as follows: *Asplenium Trichomanes* and its American allies; the North American tree ferns of the genus *Dicksonia*; the genus *Odontosoria*; Notes on *Bommeria* and related genera; New species of *Lycopodium*; A new *Cyathea* from Santo Domingo. New species are described as follow: *Asplenium* 4, *Odontosoria* 3, *Lycopodium* 5, *Cyathea* 1, and *Dicksonia* 1.

An interesting fact which may not be known to some of the members of the American Fern Society is the occurrence of *Asplenium platyneuron* in South Africa and elsewhere only in eastern North America. Several instances of such distribution are known.

*Christensen, Carl.* Two new bipinnatifid species of *Alsophila*. *Rept. Nov. Spec.* 10: 213, 214. 1911.

*Nephrodium Kuhnii* Hieronymus is re-named *Alsophila Kuhnii* by Christensen, because of its basal indusium, of a type common in the tree-fern family, but unknown in *Dryopteris*. It is the smallest "tree-fern" known, being only eight inches long.

*Alsophila phalenolepsis* is a brand new species from Ecuador of a considerably larger size, (leaves 20-40 inches long), somewhat like *A. phegopteroides* Hooker.

*Christensen, Carl.* On the ferns of the Seychelles and the Aldabra group. *Trans. Linn. Soc. London.* II. 7: 409-425. *pl.* 25. Dec. 1912.

In this paper, Christensen lists seventy-eight species as the total number known from the Seychelles Islands. As he notes, Baker, in 1877, recognized seventy-four species, and Kuhn in 1879, recognized seventy-six. When it is noted that four of the species in the present papers were collected for the first time in 1908, it will be seen that the lists of Baker and Christensen recognize exactly the same number of species. This fact is of especial interest in view of the opinion sometimes expresses as to the prevalence of species "splitting." According to one view of modern taxonomy, Christensen would have been expected to recognize no fewer than one hundred and fifty species. Naturally the treatment differs from the earlier ones in its nomenclature, that of the *Index Filicum* being followed in the main.

The Seychelles Islands are extremely interesting owing to their location so far distant both from the Asiatic and

African continents. Of the total number of species listed, twelve are known to occur only on the Seychelles Islands. Two of these are described as new, *Asplenium complanatum*, and *Elaphoglossum Hornei*. Twenty of the seventy-eight occur also in the American tropics. The remaining forty-four are species of Asiatic or African distribution.

*Christensen, Carl.* A monograph of the genus *Dryopteris*. Part 1. The tropical American pinnatifid-bipinnatifid species. Kgl. Danske Vid. Selsk. Skr. VII, **10**: 55-282. fig. 1-46. 1913.

The paper now under consideration is undoubtedly the most extensive and at the same time most thorough fern monograph ever published. Two hundred and eighty species are treated in its two hundred and thirty odd pages. The results are based on the study of approximately ten thousand specimens, obtained largely by loans from the leading herbaria of Europe and America. The actual significance of these facts will hardly be appreciated except by those who have carried on careful taxonomic research, but it may be noted that the paper under review represents very many laborious hours scattered through a period of years. Its value for fern classification is commensurate with the time and labor involved.

No attempt will be made here to review in detail its findings. Mention may be made, however, of some interesting facts connected with fern distribution. A pronounced difference occurs between the fern flora of Southern Brazil as compared with the West Indian-Andean regions which have much in common. Only fourteen species are found in both regions and even the forms of these which occur in both regions differ somewhat. Three species of the two hundred and eighty occur also in the eastern hemisphere. One of these,

*D. eriocaulis*, furnishes another example of American-African distribution, being found only in West Africa and eastern Brazil.

*Christensen, Carl.* Filices Purdomianae. Bot. Gaz. **56**: 331-338. Oct. 1913.

The article contains a list of sixty-three ferns collected by Mr. Wm. Purdom in the province of Shensi in northern China, in 1910, in connection with the expedition sent out by the Arnold Arboretum. The collection is of especial interest because it includes numerous temperate species, some of which occur also in temperate North America. It is also of especial interest because it undoubtedly includes a number of Chinese species which would grow here with us and add to our lists of hardy ferns for fern gardens.

The following species of our flora occur in the list: *Adiantum pedatum*, *Asplenium adiantum nigrum*, *A. Trichomanes*, *Athyrium acrostichoides*, *A. filix femina*, *Cryptogramma Stelleri*, *Dryopteris Dryopteris* (*D. Linnaeana*) *D. Phegopteris*, *Polystichum Braunii*, *Lycopodium annotinum*.

Apparently the collecting trip extended into tropical as well as temperate regions, since the list includes a considerable proportion of tropical species. Six new species are described and a number of other species listed as new to the region or otherwise noteworthy. The new species are distributed as follows: *Athyrium*, *Cheilanthes*, *Dryopteris* (2), *Matteuccia*, and *Polystichum*. The *Matteuccia* is described as intermediate between *M. Struthiopteris* and *M. orientalis*.

*Tidestrom, Ivar.* *Botrychium virginianum* and its forms. United States National Museum **16**: 299-303. pl. 102. 29 Dec. 1913.

The writer discusses the variations of *Botrychium virginianum* in its broadest sense and concludes that two

species should be recognized instead of one, the second species to be assigned the name *B. cicutarium* (Sar.) Swartz. To this latter species he assigns as synonyms *B. dichronum* Underwood, *B. brachystachys* Kunze, and *B. virginianum v. mexicanum* Hooker.

*B. cicutarium* he distinguishes from *B. virginianum* on the basis of the persistent leaves which last more than one season, and the comparatively shorter fertile portion. *B. cicutarium*, as recognized, is native in the West Indies and Central America. Typical *B. virginianum* ranges as far south as the State of Hidalgo, Mexico.

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### Notes and News

#### CONCERNING THE PERSERVATION OF NEW FORMS OF FERNS

I find in the January issue of the AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL a reference to a "belated maidenhair" (*A. pedatum*) which is of interest, as it may imply a *sempervivum* form of that species well worth cultivation if the plant had been collected for cultivation instead of, as is too often the case, destroyed by collectors for mere herbarium purposes. In fact the final remark "how much longer it might have survived" rather indicates another instance of botanical vandalism. A parallel case, with one material difference, exists in the case of the deciduous *Cystopteris fragilis*, of which a perfectly green plant was discovered in the Highlands of Scotland some years ago in the winter. The plant was lifted and grown and eventually a fertile frond was sent to me, from which I raised a large number of very robust plants, which proved to be not merely "*sempervirens*" or evergreen, but practically "*sempercrescens*," since they grew all the year round, while the species